

House Resolution 1683

By: Representative Keown of the 173rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing sympathy at the passing of Franklin Isom Smith; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost an esteemed citizen on March 4, 2008, with the death
3 of Franklin Isom Smith; and

4 WHEREAS, he was born April 6, 1920, in Thomas County, Georgia, to Homer Thomas
5 Smith and Nora Lee Hiers Smith, the oldest of five children; and

6 WHEREAS, after graduating from Coolidge School, he attended Abraham Baldwin College,
7 the University of Georgia, and West Georgia College, where he met his wife, the former
8 Doris Buffington of Woodland; and

9 WHEREAS, he proudly served in the United States Navy as a Navy Seabee during World
10 War II as a chief; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1946, he returned to his beloved Thomas County, where the Smith family
12 have been farmers and landowners since the mid-1800's, to begin a lifelong career in
13 agriculture; and

14 WHEREAS, the Franklin I. Smith Farm, Inc., was named a Centennial Family Farm in 2007,
15 recognizing more than 100 years of farm ownership by the same family, continuing the
16 family legacy, for which he will be remembered for his dairy and beef cattle operations as
17 well as a row crop operation and fine pecans; and

18 WHEREAS, he served in countless leadership roles in both his business life and community
19 life, including president and chairman of the board of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in
20 Coolidge; chairman of the board of the Bank of Thomas County; member of the Coolidge
21 local board of education; member of the John D. Archbold Hospital Board of Trustees;
22 president of the Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce; president of the

1 Thomas County Farm Bureau, Thomas County Livestock Association, Georgia Livestock
2 Association, Dairy Council of Georgia, and the Thomasville Rotary Club; president of the
3 Thomas County Library Board; and supporter of the Thomas County Historical Society; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a member of Coolidge Baptist Church, where he served as a
5 deacon since 1954; and

6 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of 64 years, Doris; three daughters and sons-in-law,
7 Mary Jo and Ken Beverly of Thomasville, Nancy and Richard Chandler of Suwanee, Becky
8 and Jim Enzor of Raleigh, North Carolina; a son, Stanley Smith of Thomasville; and
9 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his desire to help his fellow man, his love of family
11 and community, and his sense of humor and wit.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body express regret at the passing of Franklin Isom Smith.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Franklin Isom
16 Smith.